

S.N. 10/612,521

Art Unit 3764

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing a trigger-point massage, comprising the following steps:

(a) providing a spherical ball having an array of between 8 to 14 pliable nodes projecting axially from the surface of the spherical ball, wherein said pliable nodes are substantially cylindrical; and

(b) applying localized pressure to a trigger-point using a single pliable node of said spherical ball.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the spherical ball and pliable nodes are composed of rubber or plastic.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the pliable nodes of said spherical ball are equally spaced apart from each other.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pliable nodes of said spherical ball have a flat end.

6.-11. (Cancelled).

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said pliable nodes are between one-half inch to one inch in both length and diameter.

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13. (Currently Amended) A trigger-point therapy device, comprising:
 - a spherical ball; and
 - an array of between 8 to 14 pliable nodes projecting axially from the surface of the spherical ball, wherein said pliable nodes are substantially cylindrical and are between one-half inch to one inch in both length and diameter.
14. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein the spherical ball and the pliable nodes are composed of rubber or plastic.
15. (Cancelled).
16. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 13, wherein the pliable nodes of said spherical ball are evenly spaced apart from each other.
17. The device of claim 13, wherein the pliable nodes of said spherical ball have a flat end.
18. (Cancelled).
19. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said pliable nodes are disposed upon a rigid pin in press-fit arrangement with said spherical ball.
20. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein at least one of said pliable nodes are disposed upon a rigid pin in press-fit arrangement with said spherical ball.

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21. (New) A trigger-point therapy device, comprising:

a spherical ball; and

an array of 10 pliable nodes projecting axially from the surface of the spherical ball, wherein said pliable nodes are substantially cylindrical, are evenly spaced apart from each other, and are disposed upon a rigid pin in press-fit arrangement with said spherical ball.

22. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein said pliable nodes are between one-half inch to one inch in both length and diameter.